

REMARKS

Claims 5-6 have been canceled to allow prosecution of claims 1-4. New claims 7-15 have been added to more particularly define the invention.

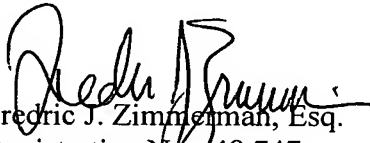
With respect to the prior co-pending U.S. application Serial No. 09/939,647, Applicant hereby incorporates the claim of priority from Japanese Application 11-081064 filed on March 25, 1999, and claimed under 35 U.S.C. §119.

The prior application is assigned of record to Fuji Xerox Co., Ltd. at Reel 012849 and Frame 0102.

Early and favorable prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully submitted,


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